

Appln No. 09/522,184

Amdt date January 25, 2005

Reply to Office action of November 19, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-26, 28-33, and 35-47 are currently pending and claim 34 is canceled. Claims 1, 14, 26, and 33 are amended. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner still has not acknowledged receipt of the IDS that was filed on August 14, 2002. (A second set of copies for the above-mentioned IDS were sent to the Examiner with the Amendment After Final Action, dated March 24, 2004.) **Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of the above-mentioned IDS by initialing and returning the attached copy of the same IDS.**

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 14, 16-18, 26, 28-30, 35-39, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Arimilli (US 6,515,984). Claims 6, 8-13, 19, 20-25, 31, 40, and 42-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arimilli in view of Murphy (US 2002/0036791). Claims 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arimilli in view of Chen (US 6,611,531). Applicants submit that all of the claims currently pending in this application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

The amended independent claims 1 and 14 include, among other limitations, "demodulating the received signal to generate a first data stream, if the received signal is a modulated signal," "encoding the received signal to generate a second data stream, if the received signal is a voiceband signal," and

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"asynchronously outputting onto the packet based network the second data stream including the encoded voiceband signal or the first data stream including the demodulated signal."

Arimilli does not teach the above recited limitations. Rather, Arimilli discloses a data multiplexing which multiplexes a plurality of asynchronous data channels with an asynchronous data stream representing compressed voice signals and/or facsimile signals onto a single synchronous data packet stream. (Abstract and Summary of the Invention, emphasis added).

Arimilli further stresses that "the present invention combines a plurality of asynchronous data channels 302a-302n, which in many cases are RS232 interfaces 303a through 303n, along with a data packet stream of compressed voice or facsimile information into a single data stream. The single packetized data stream is transmitted using synchronous modem 314 over a single telephone line 315 to a remote site." (Col. 5, lines 15-22, underlining added.).

Therefore, the data transmission mode of Arimilli is synchronous. In fact, by stressing the advantages and contrasts of a synchronous data transmission for a voice/fax/data system over an asynchronous data transmission (see, e.g., col. 5, lines 52-65), Arimilli also teaches away from the claimed asynchronous data transmission of the present invention.

Also, as explained above, Arimilli combines the different data into a single stream and synchronously transmits the combined single data stream. In contrast, the claimed invention "asynchronously output[s] onto the packet based network the second data stream including the encoded voiceband signal or the

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first data stream including the demodulated signal." As a result, claims 1 and 16 are not anticipated by Arimilli.

Amended independent claim 26, includes, among other limitations, "a signal processing system coupling the first and the second telephony devices to the packet based network, the signal processing system having means for detecting whether a received signal is the modulated signal or the voiceband signal, a voice encoder which encodes the voiceband signal to generate a first data stream, a data pump for demodulating the modulated modem data to generate a second data stream, and a channel interface which asynchronously outputs onto the packet based network the first data stream including the encoded voiceband signal or the second data stream including the demodulated modem data."

For the same reasons discussed above, claim 26 is also not anticipated by Arimilli.

In short, the independent claims 1, 14 and 26 define a novel and unobvious invention over the cited references. Dependent claims 3-13, 16-25, and 28-47 are dependent from claims 1, 14 and 26, respectively and therefore include all the limitations of their respective independent claims and additional limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable over the cited references, as being dependent from allowable independent claims 1, 14 and 26 and for the additional limitations they include therein.

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in

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condition for allowance, therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By


Raymond R. Tabandeh
Reg. No. 43,945
626/795-9900

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